

1. A network management system comprising:

a graphical user interface configured to display a graphical representation of a model network and a graphical representation of operations of the model network wherein the network model comprises a plurality of model elements including a model media gateway controller coupled to a model media gateway;

a computer system coupled to the graphical user interface and configured to receive a message from the graphical user interface, process the message to generate call signaling for a call through the model network, transfer the call signaling to a live media gateway controller that corresponds to the model media gateway controller and is coupled to a live media gateway that corresponds to the model media gateway, receive a control message indicating an identifier for the call from the live media gateway controller, process the control message to generate a response, and transfer the response to the graphical user interface wherein the response indicates one of the operations of the model network.

2. The network management system of claim 1 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to receive the response and display the one operation of the model network.

3. The network management system of claim 2 wherein the one operation comprises the model media gateway controller transferring a graphical representation of the control message to the model media gateway.

4. The network management system of claim 1 wherein the live media gateway interworks call traffic from a non-packet based network to a packet based network.

5. The network management system of claim 4 wherein the identifier for the call comprises an address in the packet based network.

6. The network management system of claim 1 wherein the model media gateway is coupled to a model non-packet based network and a model packet based network.

7. The network management system of claim 1 wherein the call signaling comprises signaling system 7 (SS7) signaling.

8. The network management system of claim 1 wherein the call in the model network comprises a test call.

9. A method of operating a network management system wherein the network management system comprises a graphical user interface configured to display a graphical representation of a model network and a graphical representation of operations of the model network wherein the model network comprises a plurality of model elements including a model media gateway controller coupled to a model media gateway, and a computer system coupled to the graphical user interface, the method comprising:

in the computer system, receiving a message from the graphical user interface generating call signaling for a call through the model network;

transferring the call signaling for the call to a live media gateway controller that corresponds to the model media gateway controller and is coupled to a live media gateway that corresponds to the model media gateway;

receiving a control message indicating an identifier for the call from the live media gateway controller;

processing the control message to generate a response to the graphical user interface wherein the response indicates one of the operations of the model network; and transferring the response to the graphical user interface.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising, in the graphical user interface, receiving the response and displaying the one operation of the model network.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the one operation comprises the model media gateway controller transferring a graphical representation of the control message to the model media gateway.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the live media gateway interworks call traffic from a non-packet based network to a packet based network.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the identifier for the call comprises an address in the packet based network.
14. The method of claim 9 wherein the model media gateway is coupled to a model non-packet based network element and a model packet based network element.
15. The method of claim 9 wherein the call signaling comprises signaling system 7 (SS7) signaling.
16. The method of claim 9 wherein the call in the model network comprises a test call.
17. A software product for a network management system comprising:  
software operational when executed by a processing system to direct the processing system to display in a graphical user interface a graphical representation of a model network and a graphical representation of operations of the model network wherein the model network comprises a plurality of model elements including a model media gateway controller coupled to a model media gateway, receive a message from the graphical user interface, process the message to generate call signaling for a call through the model network and transfer the call signaling to a live media gateway controller that corresponds to the model media gateway controller and is coupled to a live media gateway that corresponds to the model media gateway, receive a control message indicating an identifier for the call from the live media gateway controller, process the control message to generate a response, and transfer the response to the graphical user interface wherein the response indicates a one of the operations of the model network; and  
a storage system to store the software.